



May 7, 2012

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
B-351 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers:

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) writes to voice our strong opposition to H.R. 4970, the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). After nearly two decades of progress to fight violence against women, this current proposed legislation is a dangerous step backwards for all women.

We are deeply concerned that H.R. 4970 will result in significantly reduced services for domestic violence survivors across the U.S. and in the Territories. We believe that all women, including Native American, immigrant and LGBTQ women should benefit from the protections that VAWA has traditionally provided to survivors of violence. We also recognize the critical importance of ensuring the delivery of culturally specific programming so that survivors are able to receive services within a context that best resonates with their lived and cultural experience.

We strongly urge your opposition to H.R. 4970 in favor of version of H.R. 4271 that includes the provisions found in the bi-partisan Senate bill which provided protections for tribal, immigrant, and LGBTQ survivors, as well as other marginalized communities. Thank you for your consideration of our perspective on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Miriam Yeung
Executive Director

cc: House Judiciary Committee Members